

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of Claims

1-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Currently amended) A process for treating textile fibers consisting of:

(1) mild washing of said fibers at a temperature of less than or equal to about 40°C, with an aqueous composition comprising:

(a) a compound of formula (II):

~~The process of claim 36, wherein, the aqueous composition contains a compound of formula:~~



wherein R'', independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M and SO₃M, and, wherein, at least one R'' is a sulfur-containing group, AO, independently of each other, represents C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O-, the indices x, y and z, independently of one another, are 0 or their sum has a value of from 1 to 500, M is a cation having at least one charge, ~~and wherein if~~ provided that when any of x, y or z is zero, its corresponding substituent R'' is a hydrogen atom;

(b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of textile fiber
cleaning surfactants and textile fiber softening agents; and

(c) water; and

(2) drying said textile fibers;
wherein the treated fibers exhibit reduced pilling.

38-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37, wherein, in formula (II) the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from 10 to 100.

47. (Currently amended) The process of claim 37, wherein, the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from ~~30~~ 50 to ~~80~~ 500.

48. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_2H_4O .

49. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_3H_6O .

50. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

51-52. (Cancelled).

53. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.